up with the State Government and High Court of Karnataka for setting up the required number of Fast Track Courts.

New subsidy scheme for Inland Water Transport Sector

405. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated new subsidy scheme for Inland Water Transport Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide infrastructural facilities in three national waterways;

(d) if so, details thereof, and

(f) the fund allocated by IWAI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With an aim to reduce capital burden on prospective Inland Water Transport entrepreneur, thereby enhancing their profitability and making IWT tariff competitive, an Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has recently been approved by the Government. The scheme will come into effect from 1.4.2002 and remain in force for a period of 5 years. The Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme would be applicable to both cargo & passenger inland vessels meant for operation on National Waterways. The subsidy will be available only for vessels acquired by an Indian inland water transport entrepreneur from a shipyard in India. The subsidy payable under this scheme would be equal to 30% of the ex-factory price of the inland vessel.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakkara canals have been declared as national waterways. Provision of infrastructure such as navigational channels, terminals at select locations and navigational aids form part of the development schemes for the national waterways.

(e) Funds for development of national waterways are provided to IWAI by the Government. During 2001-02, IWAI was allocated Rs. 34.23 crore for development of National Waterways.

Night navigation in National Waterways-1

406. SHRI NILOPTAL BASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stretch of waterways between Haldia and Allahabad has been designated as the National Waterways-1;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate night navigation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad was declared as National Waterway No. 1 in 1986. Provision of infrastructure such as navigational channels, terminals at select locations and navigational aids form part of the development schemes for the National Waterway No-1.

(c) In NW 1 a scheme for provision of 24 hrs. navigational facilities between Kolkata and Farakka, has been approved. Upper stretches of NW-1 are proposed to be provided with such facility in phases.

Strike against privatisation of SCI

407. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forward Seamens Union of India had given a call for one day strike on 22nd February to Indian and foreign going ships of Shipping Corporation of India against privatisation;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to avert the strike;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?